

ATTACHMENT TO EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT 09/926,163
(CLEAN VERSION)

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An isolated sorbitol dehydrogenase having the following physicochemical properties:

- (a) action: catalyzes the reaction converting D-sorbitol to L-sorbose;
 - (b) molecular weight: about 54 kDa;
 - (c) coenzyme: NAD (P)⁺ dependent; and
 - (d) substrate specificity: specifically oxidizes sorbitol, mannitol and arabitol, but does not act on xylitol, ribitol, inositol or glycerol,
- wherein said sorbitol dehydrogenase is derived from the strain *Gluconobacter oxydans* G624.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled):

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 or a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2 which has sorbitol dehydrogenase activity

Claims 6-48 (Cancelled):

Claim 49 (Currently Amended): The polypeptide of claim 5, which comprises SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 50 (New): The polypeptide of claim 5, which comprises a fragment of SEQ ID NO: 2, which has sorbitol dehydrogenase activity.

Claim 51 (New): The polypeptide of claim 5, which consists of SEQ ID NO: 2.